

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5369

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY, CALCUTTA FROM
MADRAS APRIL 19, 1976 REPEATED FOR YOU

QUOTE

MADRAS 701

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF HOME ON LAW AND ORDER IN TAMIL NADU:

SAYS DMK NOT TO BE BANNED

1. SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN AFTER A MEETING WITH THE ADVISERS TO THE GOVERNOR AND OTHER SENIOR STATE OFFICIALS IN MADRAS ON APRIL 17, UNION MINISTER OF HOME K. BRAHMANANDA REDDI EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE STATE ADMINISTRATION SINCE THE IMPOSITION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE AND DESCRIBED THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION AND THE INDUSTRIAL CLIMATE IN THE STATE AS "GOOD." HE SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT STATE OFFICIALS ARE NOT ONLY DEVOTING ATTENTION TO LAW AND ORDER BUT ALSO TO "DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 20-POINT PROGRAM." HE NOTED THAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO ENACT SUITABLE LEGISLATION TO "CORRECT PAST MISTAKES."

2. REDDI REPORTEDLY STATED THAT NINETY PER CENT OF THOSE ARRESTED IN THE STATE FOLLOWING THE IMPOSITION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE HAVE

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BEEN RELEASED. HOWEVER, HE WARNED THOSE ALREADY RELEASED TO BEHAVE

THEMSELVES AND OTHERWISE MADE IT CLEAR THE GOI WILL TOLERATE NO BREAKDOWN IN LAW AND ORDER BY SAYING THAT "IF THE SITUATION WARRANTS," THE GOVERNMENT WILL RE-ARREST THOSE RELEASED OR AUTHORIZE NEW DETENTIONS. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT LIKE TO KEEP ANYONE UNDER DETENTION "ONE HOUR LONGER THAN NECESSARY," NO ONE SHOULD HAVE THE IMPRESSION THEY CAN DO "ANYTHING HE OR SHE LIKES."

3. ASKED ABOUT A STATEMENT ALLEGEDLY MADE BY FORMER CHIEF MINISTER B. BHAKTAVATSALAM THAT THE DMK WAS ENGAGED IN "SECRET ACTIVITIES," REDDI SAID THAT HE WAS WATCHING PARTY ACTIVITIES IN TAMIL NADU, IMPLYING THAT THE DMK IS KEPT UNDER CLOSE GOI SCRUTINY AT ALL TIMES. REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION CONCERNING THE BANNING OF THE DMK, HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY MOVE TO BAN THE PARTY. THE LOCAL EDITION OF THE SUNDAY STANDARD QUOTES HIM AS SAYING THAT "ONLY THOSE PARTIES WHICH PREACHED SECESSION WOULD BE BANNED," "THE DMK HAS BEEN DECLARING THAT IT WAS NOT FOR SEPARATION" AND "ITS LEADERS HAVE ALSO BEEN REITERATING THIS POINT NOW MORE THAN IN THE PAST."

4. REDDI ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD BE VISITING MADRAS AGAIN ON MAY 1 TO ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE 60-MEMBER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT WHICH ADVISES THE PRESIDENT ON TAMIL NADU. THE COMMITTEE WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO MEET APRIL 19 IN MADRAS, BUT ACCORDING TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY, THE MEETING WAS MOVED TO MAY 1 BECAUSE THE EARLIER DATE DID NOT SUIT REDDI AND SOME OF THE MEMBERS.

5. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS, THE GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU ON APRIL 14 ORDERED THE RELEASE OF ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVEN PERSONS DETAINED UNDER MISA IN THE STATE. A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE CONSULATE GENERAL HAS INFORMED US THAT SEVENTY-THREE OF THOSE RELEASED BELONGED TO THE DMK. MOST OF THOSE RELEASED HAD SUBMITTED WRITTEN APOLOGIES FOR THEIR PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES, WHILE OTHERS HAD INFORMED THE STATE GOVERNMENT OF THEIR DECISIONS TO QUIT THE DMK. OUR SOURCE INFORMED US FURTHER THAT ONLY THOSE DMK WORKERS CONSIDERED HARMLESS ARE BEING RELEASED, IMPLYING THAT THE HARD CORE DMK TYPES CONTINUE UNDER DETENTION.

6. COMMENT: WE WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN UP-TO-DATE FIGURES ON THOSE STILL UNDER DETENTION. IN THE MEANTIME, REDDI'S STATEMENT AND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN PARA 5 CONFIRM OUR PREVIOUS OPINION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT GOI INTENDS TO KEEP THE LID ON IN TAMIL NADU. SIGNED MCCASKILL
UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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